Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1–104. (Cancelled)

105. A method for providing glutathione to a subject without relying on *de novo* glutathione biosynthesis pathway comprising administering a sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug to a subject in need of such treatment, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug produces glutathione in the subject without relying on the subject's own *de novo* glutathione biosynthesis pathway.

106. The method of claim **105**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug produces glutathione in addition to glutathione produced via *de novo* glutathione biosynthesis pathway in the subject.

107. The method of claim **105**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is selected from the group consisting of L-CySSG, GSSMA, GSSME, S-Ac-GSH-OEt, a derivative thereof and a combination thereof.

108. The method of claim **105**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is provided in a pharmaceutical composition.

109. The method of claim **105**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is provided as a dietary supplement.

110. The method of claim **105**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione is a racemic or scalemic mixture of L-CySSG.

111. The method of claim **105**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione is a L-CySSG mixture optically enriched in the enantiomer having the same absolute configuration as L-Cysteine.

112. A method for maintaining glutathione homeostasis in a subject with impaired glutathione biosynthesis pathway comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of a sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug produces glutathione in the subject without relying on the subject's own *de novo* glutathione biosynthesis pathway.

113. The method of claim **112**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug produces glutathione in addition to glutathione produced via *de novo* glutathione biosynthesis pathway in the subject.

114. The method of claim **112**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is selected from the group consisting of L-CySSG, GSSMA, GSSME, S-Ac-GSH-OEt, a derivative thereof and a combination thereof.

115. The method of claim **112**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is provided in a pharmaceutical composition.

116. The method of claim **112**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is provided as a dietary supplement.

117. The method of claim **112**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione is a racemic or scalemic mixture of L-CySSG.

118. The method of claim **112**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione is a L-CySSG mixture optically enriched in the enantiomer having the same absolute configuration as L-Cysteine.

119. A method for maintaining cellular antioxidant level in a subject comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment an effective amount of a sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug produces glutathione in the subject without relying on the subject's own *de novo* glutathione biosynthesis pathway.

120. The method of claim **119**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug produces glutathione in addition to glutathione produced via *de novo* glutathione biosynthesis pathway in the subject.

121. The method of claim **119**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is selected from the group consisting of L-CySSG, GSSMA, GSSME, S-Ac-GSH-OEt, a derivative thereof and a combination thereof.

122. The method of claim **119**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is provided in a pharmaceutical composition.

123. The method of claim **119**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is provided as a dietary supplement.

124. The method of claim **119**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione is a racemic or scalemic mixture of L-CySSG.

125. The method of claim **119**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione is a L-CySSG mixture optically enriched in the enantiomer having the same absolute configuration as L-Cysteine.

126. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a unit dosage amount of sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug, wherein the unit dosage amount is an amount suitable for human treatment.

127. The pharmaceutical composition of claim **126**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is selected from the group consisting of L-CySSG, GSSMA, GSSME, S-Ac-GSH-OEt, a derivative thereof and a combination thereof.

128. The pharmaceutical composition of claim **126**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione is a racemic or scalemic mixture of L-CySSG.

129. The pharmaceutical composition of claim **126**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione is a L-CySSG mixture optically enriched in the enantiomer having the same absolute configuration as L-Cysteine.

130. The pharmaceutical composition of claim **126**, wherein the unit dosage amount is from about 50 to about 500 milligrams.

131. A comestible composition comprising a sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug.

132. The comestible composition of claim **131**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is provided in a food or beverage formulation.

133. The comestible composition of claim **131**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is provided in a dietary supplement formulation.

134. The comestible composition of claim **131**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione prodrug is selected from the group consisting of L-CySSG, GSSMA, GSSME, S-Ac-GSH-OEt, a derivative thereof and a combination thereof.

135. The comestible composition of claim **131**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione is a racemic or scalemic mixture of L-CySSG.

136. The comestible composition of claim **131**, wherein the sulfhydryl protected glutathione is a L-CySSG mixture optically enriched in the enantiomer having the same absolute configuration as L-Cysteine.